

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application.

Listing of Claims:

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1. (Currently Amended) A method for providing a voice chat room service over one or more telephone networks, the method comprising:

receiving a call from a caller;

verifying whether the caller is a subscriber of the voice chat room service;

providing the caller with a menu comprising two or more public voice chat rooms that are predetermined by the service; and

routing the caller to a public voice chat room selected by the caller if the caller is a subscriber.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of inviting the caller to be a subscriber if the caller is not a subscriber.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of supplying the caller with a trial membership.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of offering the caller with two or more chat rooms to choose from.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4, further comprising the step of routing the caller to a chat room selected by the caller.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of providing the caller with a user ID number.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, further comprising the step of routing the caller to a private chat room when the user ID number is received from the caller.

B 1
8. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of retrieving information associated with the caller.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the information can be retrieved from one or more of a home location register, a visitor location register, and a service control point.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the chat room is moderated.

11. (Currently Amended) A method for providing a voice chat room service over one or more telephone networks, the method comprising:

receiving a call from a caller;

retrieving information associated with the caller;

verifying whether the caller is a subscriber of the voice chat room service;

inviting the caller to be a subscriber if the caller is not a subscriber;

supplying the caller with a menu comprising two or more chat rooms that are

predetermined by the service; and

routing the caller to a chat room selected by the caller.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the information can be retrieved from one or more of a home location register, a visitor location register, and a service control point.
13. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein one or more of the chat rooms is moderated.
14. (Original) The method of claim 13, further comprising the step of moderating the one or more chat rooms using rules associated with the voice chat room service.
- B¹ 15. (Original) The method of claim 11, further comprising the step of charging the caller for the voice chat room service.
16. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the charging step is based on time spent by the caller in the one or more chat rooms.
17. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the charging step comprises collecting a fixed fee from the caller regardless of time spent by the caller in the one or more chat rooms.
18. (Original) The method of claim 11, further comprising the step of prompting the caller for a password.
19. (Currently Amended) A method for providing a voice chat room service over one or more telephone networks, the method comprising:

facilitating a conversation in a public chat room comprising a plurality of chatters; and

leading at least two chatters of the plurality of chatters in the public room to a private chat room when user ID numbers associated with the at least two chatters are received,

wherein the user ID numbers can be received from one or more of the at least two chatters,

wherein the user ID numbers comprises a temporary ID number that is given by the service when one or more of the at least two chatters is not a subscriber of the service.

B1
20. (Original) The method of claim 19, further comprising the step charging one or more of the at least two chatters with additional fees for the private chat room.

21. (Original) The method of claim 19, further comprising the step of retrieving one or more of the user ID numbers if the at least two chatters do not remember the one or more of the user ID numbers.

22. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein each of the at least two chatters must provide his or her own user ID number to enter the private chat room.

23. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein one or more of the user ID numbers are permanent ID numbers.

24. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein one or more of the user ID numbers are temporary ID numbers.

25. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein one or more of the user ID numbers can be used only once.

26. (Currently Amended) A system for providing a voice chat room service over one or more telephone networks, the system comprising:

a plurality of chat rooms;

means for verifying whether a caller is a subscriber of the voice chat room service;

means for providing a menu comprising two or more public voice chat rooms that are predetermined by the service; and

means for routing the caller to one of the plurality of chat rooms selected by the caller.

27. (Original) The system of claim 26, wherein each of the plurality of chat rooms is associated with a conference bridge circuit.

28. (Original) The system of claim 26, wherein one or more of the plurality of chat rooms are public chat rooms.

29. (Original) The system of claim 26, wherein one or more of the plurality of chat rooms are private chat rooms.

30. (Previously Amended) The system of claim 29, further comprising means for leading at least two callers to a private chat room.

B/ 31. (Original) The system of claim 26, further comprising means for moderating conversation in one or more of the plurality of chat rooms.

32. (Previously Amended) The system of claim 26, further comprising means for transferring a caller from a first chat room to a second chat room among the plurality of chat rooms.
